Schering-Plough
Research Institute

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Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket No. 98P-0610
Comments on Citizen Petition

On July 21, 1998 Robert C. Seidman, Pharm.D., M.P.H., Vice President, Blue Cross of California Pharmacy submitted a citizen petition requesting that the agency switch to OTC status the following prescription products: Allegra (60 mg fexofenadine), Allegra-D (60 mg fexofenadine, 120 mg pseudoephedrine), Claritin (5 mg loratadine), Claritin-D (5 mg loratadine, 120 mg pseufoephedrine), Clartin-D 24 Hour (10 mg loratadine, 240 mg pseudoephedrine) and Zyrtec (5 mg cetirizine and 10 mg strengths). We are writing to oppose the grant of this petition.

Schering Corporation developed, manufactures and markets the Claritin products listed in the petition. We believe there are significant reasons why these products should remain restricted to prescription status. We, therefore, respectfully request that this petition be denied.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Giaquinto, Ph.D.

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